Appln. No.: 10/018,672

Amendment Dated March 31, 2008

Reply to Office Action of December 13, 2007

Remarks/Arguments:

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 55-63 and 68-74 will be pending in the application. Claims 55, 58, 60-63, and 68 are amended herein without the addition of new matter. Claims 64-67 are cancelled herein, without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 69-74 are newly added, but do not introduce new matter.

Applicant notes with appreciation the time and courtesies extended by Examiner Baskar to Applicant's representatives, Brian Cocca, Joy Mulholland, and Paul Prestla, during a telephonic interview on March 3, 3008. Claim amendments to advance this application to allowance were discussed, and these amendments are reflected in the claims submitted herewith.

Claims 55, 58-59, and 61-68 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, for allegedly failing to comply with the enablement requirement. It is believed that the amendments submitted herewith obviate the rejection with respect to claims 55, 58-59, and 61-68.

Claims 55, 58-59, 61-64, and 66-68 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, for allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement, a new matter rejection. It is believed that the amendments submitted herewith obviate the rejection with respect to claims 55, 58-59, 61-64, and 66-68.

Claims 55, 58-59, 61-64, and 66-68 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly anticipated by Breton, U.S. Pat. No. 6,605,709. It is believed that the amendments submitted herewith obviate the rejection with respect to claims 55, 58-59, 61-64, and 66-68.

Claims 55, 58, and 62 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly anticipated by the Murphy or Fleischmann references. It is believed that the amendments submitted herewith obviate the rejection with respect to claims 55, 58, and 62.

Claims 56-57 and 60 stand objected to as dependent on a rejected base claim. It is believed that the amendments obviate the rejection with respect to the base claim, and perforce, obviate the objection to claims 56-57 and 60.

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Applicant requests entry of these amendments, and favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of all outstanding rejections. A notice of allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully sybmitted,

Paul F/Prestia, Reg. No. 23,031 Joy Mulholland, Reg. No. 47,810 Brigh A. Cocca, Ph.D., Reg. No. 58,583 Attorneys for Applicant

PFP/JM/tc

Dated: March 31, 2008

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The Director is hereby authorized to charge or credit Deposit Account No. 18-0350 for any additional fees, or any underpayment or credit for overpayment in connection herewith.

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